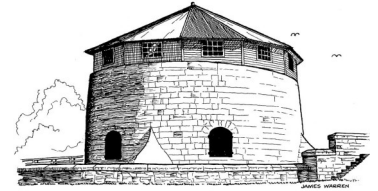


# Limelight

## Newsletter of the Kingston Historical Society

Kingston Ontario Canada

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The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.



### Kingston Historical Society Meeting

Wednesday, November 17, 2021  
7 p.m.

Speaker: **Barry Cahill**

"Icarus Revisited: The Short Life and Tragic Death of Norman McLeod Rogers."

Barry Cahill, a Halifax-based archivist and historian, will present a discussion of his upcoming biography of Norman McLeod Rogers, a one-time Queen's political economist, policy advisor to Mackenzie King and Kingston MP, with emphasis on Rogers' Kingston connection.

### On Zoom



John Rogers notes: ... a photograph of my Grandfather, one always at my Grandmother's home. ...the note in his handwriting from the speech he was to give in Toronto, "In the faith we will fight on...."

Kingston and District Branch, UEL Association of Canada  
AGM SATURDAY, November 27, 2021, 2:00 p.m. via Zoom.  
Pre-register [www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch](http://www.uelac.org/Kingston-Branch) under "Next Event."

Speaker **Dr. Tim Compeau** "The Triumph of Villainy: The Loyalist Search for Honour in Defeat."

It is noted with regret, the death of **Jack Brown**, 01 October 2021, a Life Member of the Kingston Historical Society.

Kingston Genealogical Society  
10 a.m. November 20th, 2021  
To register: [November 20th registration](#)

**Paul Van Nest: Remembering my Cousin and his Family: Bomber Command in WW2.**

# THE KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*Established 1893*

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
Kingston Historical Society  
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*Please forward submissions to the Editor [betty.andrews@gmail.com](mailto:betty.andrews@gmail.com)*

*Reprinting of articles from the Limelight must be accompanied by an acknowledgement of the Society, the issue and date. Photo credits and by-lines must be retained.*

**Featured Sponsor**

The Kingston Historical Society gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites and the City of Kingston.



*The KHS gratefully acknowledges the support of its sponsors in producing Limelight.*



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Councillors: Betty Andrews Alan MacLachlan Duncan McDowall Tabitha Renaud Anne Richardson Paul Van Nest

## *President's Message*

*by Vincent Durant*

KHS Council voted at its October meeting to enter into a hosting agreement with *Kingsbridge Retirement Community*, Centennial at Princess St. This will allow us, beginning with our January meeting, to physically meet here in Kingston, but also beam our lectures to members and guests via Zoom! Over the past few months we have learned a great deal about using Zoom, thanks to the expert input from Dr. Michelle Clarabut last season, and the equally competent continuing efforts of our own Simge Erdogan and Paul Van Nest.



Membership Committee chair Paul Van Nest reports that we are doing well, and already more than 20 members have signed up for next year. He reminds us, elsewhere in *Limelight*, that there is a discount for returning members.

Meanwhile, Treasurer Peter Ginn is happy to report that both KHS and Murney Tower Museum are weathering the pandemic quite nicely. While the Murney Tower income “was of course badly impacted with the summer shutdown”, said Peter, “donations are in excess of \$3,000 and some budgeted expenses may not occur.” You’ll recall that the Tower has switched to donations in lieu of fixed entrance fees, and from all accounts this has been quite successful.

Overall, the operation of KHS and Murney Tower Museum has proved quite successful during the pandemic, thanks to the hard work of the volunteer members of the KHS Council and the staff of the Tower.

Best wishes,

*Vincent*

## Local Boy Makes Good

At the Kingston Historical Society's zoom meeting of 20 October 2021, Duncan McDowall related the remarkable story of Sir Edward Peacock (1871-1962), a rural lad from Glengarry County who rose to prominence in the inner circles of global finance and at the Court of St. James in London. Born in humble circumstances the son of an itinerant Congregationalist preacher, young Eddie's childhood was plagued by illness and inadequate education. In the grim years after his father's early death, he taught himself to read and work figures. An alert high school teacher in Almonte spotted Peacock's determination to excel in life and shunted him to Queen's College in Kingston, where he proved a brilliant student, graduating in 1894 with a gold medal in English and political economy.

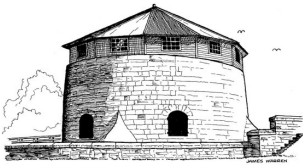
After that, he advanced into teaching at Upper Canada College, financial management at Dominion Securities in Toronto, and then a leap across the Atlantic to the City of London, the epicenter of world capital. Peacock's skill in the structuring of capitalization led to roles at Baring Brothers, where he became the first "colonial" to serve as its managing partner, and to a prestigious seat on the Board of Governors of the Bank of England. In the 1930s, he became financial advisor to the Royal Family (resulting in a 1934 knighthood), acting as Receiver-General of the Duchy of Cornwall, a post that put him at the centre of the 1936 abdication crisis. In World War II, he acted as a financial emissary for Churchill. Through all this, he remained virtually unknown in his native Canada, largely the result of his behind-the-scenes discretion, a crucial attribute in matters of finance and Royal advice.

Dr. McDowall has recently published a fuller account of Peacock's influence in English circles in the Winter 2021 issue of the University of Toronto Quarterly under the title "A Game of Thrones, 1936 Style: How Three Canadians Shaped the Abdication of Edward VII."

### **Past President Warren Everett writes:**

The success of the Kingston Historical Society is largely dependent on the strength and dedication of the **Society's Council**. This group manages the direction of the Society, its finances, programme content, and the usual day-to-day issues that face volunteer organizations. As Past President, I am charged with the task of ensuring that the Council is up to strength. A few members of the Council are stepping down after the AGM in February 2022. Therefore, this is a call to members of KHS to consider joining the Council. If you are interested, or want to discuss the role of a councillor, please contact me at:

[warreneverett7@gmail.com](mailto:warreneverett7@gmail.com)



## Murney Tower

### Operated by the Kingston Historical Society

By Annabeth Deakin

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14CUPdwS\\_mU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14CUPdwS_mU)



Have you ever wondered what the typical diet of a nineteenth-century Kingstonian consisted of? Maybe not, but here at the Murney Tower Museum the prolonged closure of our site to the public prompted our staff members to think outside the box, encouraging us to devise new and exciting ways to stay engaged with the community. We all love history, and we all love food, so what better way than to explore the culinary history of nineteenth-century Kingston than through our very own cooking channel? By investigating the daily rations of the Royal Canadian Rifle Regiment (RCRR), the soldiers who lived in Murney Tower until 1870, we were able to identify the

particular types of food that would have been staples in nineteenth-century life. From this starting point, we explored various cookbooks, including one published in Kingston in 1831, titled *The Cook Not Mad*, Canada's very first cookbook! This research, along with archaeological reports on materials found in Murney Tower's dry ditch, allowed us to learn about nineteenth-century baking and cooking techniques. Putting this new knowledge to use, we experimented with and replicated meals just like the ones the soldiers of the RCRR and their families would have eaten. We recorded this exciting process, now available on our YouTube channel – so far, we have tried soldier's bread, stew, and afternoon tea, with many more recipes forthcoming. Everything we tried was delicious! With the museum closed for the first half of the summer, we were happy to have had the chance to explore this new area of our history. We invite you to join us as we bring nineteenth-century meals into the modern kitchen! Bon Appétit!

Murney Tower participated in the Doors Open event in which several Kingston Association of Museums, Art Galleries and Historic Sites (KAM) sites opened their doors for free, pre-registered tour groups on September 25 and 26. The tower was let to two other events, *Phantoms of Yore*, and *The Haunted Walk*.

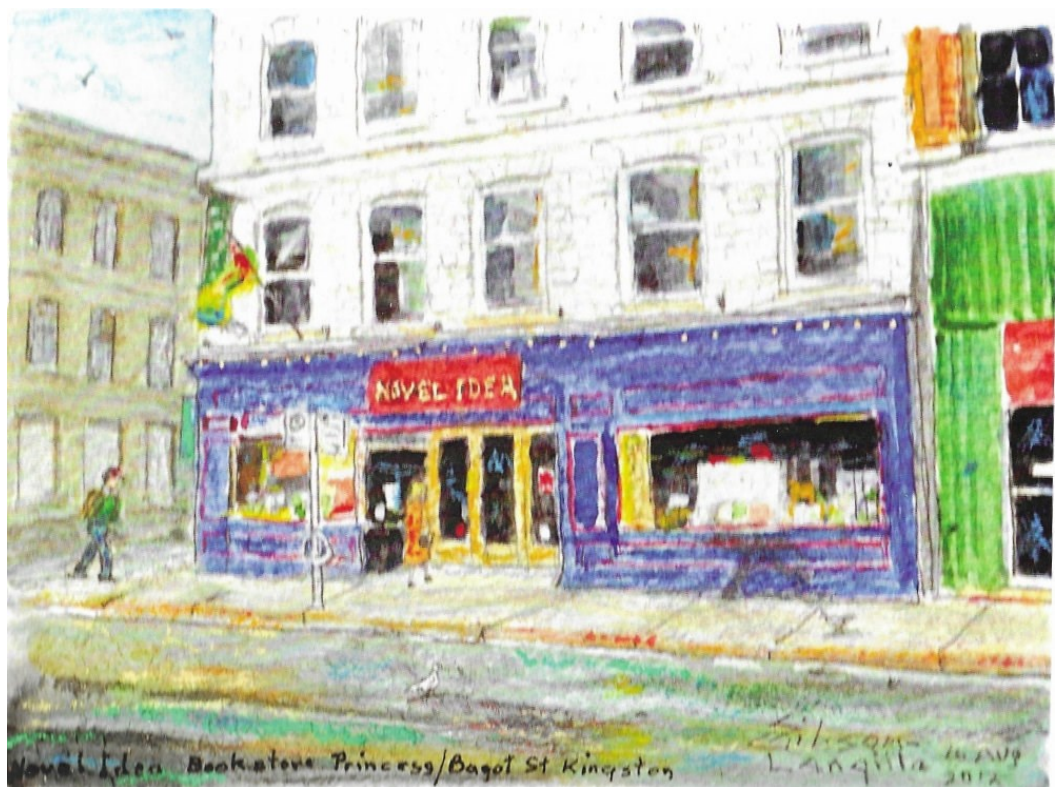


## A Novel Idea Bookstore

From the book *Treasured Memories Brushed with Love*  
by **Shirley Gibson-Langille**

I never imagined that I would actually go into a bookstore and see a title with my name on it. But there it was—on a shelf in Novel Idea! I have always loved books. I worked in the library at the Royal Military College for twenty years, and I would often find myself in a bookstore browsing the bookshelves on my noon-hour break. I did this painting of the Novel Idea bookstore at 156 Princess Street on August 1st, 2012, just after the Kingston Historical Society had launched my book, *Landscapes and Inscapes: Drawn to History with a Brush of Serendipity*.

Later, I decided to look up the history of 156 Princess Street to write a story about it. The building was designed in 1842, for Joseph Bruce, who was a prominent Kingston grocer, and had been designed to house three stores with living space on the top floors. Throughout the mid 1900s, Mahood's Drug Store occupied the downstairs unit. I remember getting prescriptions filled there in 1964, when I was living nearby on Wellington Street.



In 1991 (30 years ago this year) Oscar Malan opened the Novel Idea bookstore, and moved from 160 Princess Street. Prior to that, Oscar had run his business at 320 Princess Street near Clergy Street, where the Ali Baba Kabab-Persian and Middle East Cuisine is now located.

Novel Idea actively supports local writers by sponsoring numerous book launches and readings. Oscar also supports the visual artists, weavers, and potters with their creative window displays. I know how much this is appreciated by the arts and literary communities. On behalf of us all, I would like to thank Oscar and his staff for their wonderful support.

The book, *Treasured Memories Brushed with Love*, was available for purchase in May 2020. Its launch was cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions. A few copies are still available through the author, **Shirley Gibson-Langille**.

***Still Standing***  
***Looking at Regional Architecture with Jennifer McKendry***

## 285 Queen Street: two “firsts”\*

This stone building is of particular importance, because it is the first Catholic Apostolic Church in North America and the first known example of Gothic Revival style in Kingston. It is the oldest surviving stone church in the city more or less in its original form (St George’s Cathedral dates from 1825 but has been extensively altered and enlarged).

At the time it was built in 1837, the sect was relatively new, inspired by the teachings of the Rev’d Edward Irving, 1790-1834, who broke from traditional Presbyterianism by emphasizing the qualities of the apostles as applied to living persons, the validity of prophecy, speaking in tongues and obsessing over the coming Apocalypse. He was teaching in Glasgow and London in the 1820s and ’30s. One of his followers was the Rev’d Adam Hood Burwell, 1790-1849, born in Upper Canada and a member of the Church of England, which did not appreciate his tendency toward evangelistic aspects. He wrote essays in the Kingston newspapers in the early 1830s and moved to Kingston in 1836 to found the first Catholic Apostolic Church (sometimes known as Irvingism) in North America at 285 Queen Street (now known as the Renaissance Event Venue). The property was placed under his name in 1844. Previous owners in the 1830s were likely acting on behalf of the church. In 1951, it formally transferred to the Pentecostal Church which, however, had been in occupation since at least 1924.

It is tempting to speculate that a new sect called for a new style — its medieval aspects challenging the conservative Classical style of other churches in the area. The pointed-arch motif is the main claim to Gothicism in a building form grounded in Classical proportions. The token applied buttresses seem more like pilasters. It is also tempting to speculate that the architect was William Coverdale, who had been working in Kingston since 1833 and two years later designed St John’s Church in Peterborough in Gothic Revival. Between 1844 and 1858, he went on to design, with an increasing understanding of Gothic forms, at least six churches in that style in the Kingston region, Gananoque and Newburgh.

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\* excerpt from *Kingston, the Limestone City* by Jennifer McKendry

**285 Queen in 1934 from Edwin Horsey manuscript**



**285 Queen Photos by Jennifer McKendry**



## **Please Renew Your Membership for 2022 before 31 December**

RENEWAL of Membership in the KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY: As a credit to our 2021 members for their support in a difficult year and because our expenses were lower due to COVID-19, we are discounting the fees for renewals by 25%. (Don't get used to this please.). ☐ \$37.50 for a personal membership; ☐ \$45 for a family; ☐ \$18.75 for a student; and ☐ \$45 for an institution. ☐ \$300 for a sponsor.

For New Members to the KINGSTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY: Dues remain unchanged: ☐ \$50 for an individual membership; ☐ \$60 for a family; ☐ \$25 for a student; ☐ \$60 for an institution; and ☐ \$300 for a sponsor.

Questions? Contact the Membership Chair Paul Van Nest, 613-544-6802 or email [pvan nest@cogeco.ca](mailto:pvan nest@cogeco.ca)

Membership includes the annual journal 'Historic Kingston' and 9 issues of the newsletter 'Limelight'. Some sponsors offer discounts to members.

Send this completed application form, along with a cheque made out to the 'Kingston Historical Society':  
**Kingston Historical Society, Box 54, Kingston ON K7L 4V6**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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I would like to receive my Limelight online \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**OR** you can pay your dues

Online with Visa or MasterCard or PayPal: > Membership  
or

eTransfer to [treasurer@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca](mailto:treasurer@kingstonhistoricalsociety.ca)

Additional donation: The Society would sincerely appreciate any additional donation that you may wish to make. Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_ (Charitable receipts for amounts exceeding \$19.99)

**Please renew your  
KHS membership  
now!**

**From the recent past, taken from the Kingston Historical Society's Newsletter  
THEN – March 1994**

...a new institution to our Society: The Soapbox. For a period of three minutes any member may come forward and speak on any topic...



***The Kingston Historical Society Award*** is given to individuals, groups and institutions in recognition of their contributions to the preservation, understanding and interpretation of local Kingston history. Kingston Historical Society members are asked to nominate those they believe meet the award criteria. Please send nominations by letter or email, and include the nominee's contact information and the reasons for your nomination. Nominations by mail can be sent to Chairperson, KHS Awards Committee, Box 54, Kingston, Ontario K7L 4V8. If submitting by email send your nomination to Paul J. Charbonneau, KHS Awards Committee Chairperson, at [bearsden1017@hotmail.com](mailto:bearsden1017@hotmail.com). The deadline for nominations is December 15, 2021. The awards will be presented during Heritage Month (February 2022) at the event to be determined.

**HOMESTEAD**

*Welcome, new members*

Brent Holland



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